

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 and add new claims 2-3 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A transmission apparatus, comprising:
 - a first optical signal receiver which receives a first optical signal transmitted from a first transmission path;
 - a second optical signal receiver which receives a second optical signal transmitted from a second transmission path;
 - a first optical signal transmitter which transmits a third optical signal onto a third transmission path;
 - a second optical signal transmitter which transmits a fourth optical signal onto a fourth transmission path;
 - an interface for a distribution system; and
 - a cross connect switch which exchanges electric signals from said first and second optical signal receivers and said interface for a distribution system, and which sends out them out into said first or second optical signal transmitter, or into said interface for a distribution system, wherein,
 - ~~a decoder for error correcting code of said first or second optical signal receiver and an encoder for error correcting code of said first or second optical signal transmitter are independently controllable for each and~~
 - a controller portion which gives an instruction on whether an error correction coding process should be conducted upon a signal to be transmitted, wherein
 - said optical signal transmitter has a coding process portion for conducting the error correction coding process upon the signal to be transmitted, a through-output portion for passing a signal therethrough, and a select portion for selecting and outputting either one of the signals from said coding process portion and said through-output portion responsive to the instructing from said controller portion.

2. (New) The transmission apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical transmitter further comprises the following:

a delay output portion for outputting a signal after elapsing of a predetermined time period, wherein

said select portion selects and outputs any one of the signals from said coding process portion, said through-output portion, and said delay output portion, responding to the instructing from said controller portion.

3. (New) The transmission apparatus according to 1, wherein said controller gives an instruction to said optical receivers on whether an error correction decoding process should be conducted upon the signals received therein.